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Alexander Higgins (ed.), ‘The First Exchequer Commission into the Establishment of the Head Port of Gloucester, January 1583’
(Unpublished transcription, 2011).¹

1r.

[The document begins with a copy of the commission’s writ. This took the form of a *dedimus potestatem* – a commission that delegated royal authority to private individuals and allowed them to take and record deponents’ evidence. This was a right that normally belonged exclusively to the Exchequer barons in their capacity as judges. The writ is in Latin. It is dated 4th July 1582. It names Sir William Winter, Sir Thomas Throckmorton, Richard Pate and Thomas Hannam as the four appointed commissioners for this task, makes reference to the attached interrogatories and orders them to return their findings under their seals into the Exchequer. The writ also states that the commission was due to be returned to the Exchequer by the Octave of Saint Hilary – which meant the 20th January 1583. However, it is clear that this was not the original return date inscribed – there are erasure marks on the document and this date has been written in the original return date’s place. Fortunately, a copy of this writ has survived in the records of the city of Gloucester and this copy includes the original return date – which was the Morrow of All Souls – or the 3rd November 1582.² Another document found in the records of the city of Gloucester notes that the date was changed because ‘the commissioners cowlde not come in place’ in time for the commission to be executed before the commission was due to be returned to the Exchequer.³]

2r.

Interrogatories to be ministred to *merchannts* masters of Shippes
Pilottes⁴ & skilfull mariners of their knowledge of and conceninge
the River of Severne betwene kingrode⁵ and the Bridge of Gloucester.

1. Imprimis do you knowe the Ryver of Severne and the creekes and Pills betwene kingrode and

¹ The National Archives: Public Record Office, UK [TNA:PRO], E134/25Eliz/Hil3. The following conventions were employed when transcribing this document: the line spacing, spelling, capitalization, erasures, insertions, underlining and punctuation follow the manuscript; ‘u’ and ‘v’ have been rendered according to the document rather than to modern usage. Square brackets indicate editorial additions. Reconstructions of suspensions are in italics and all suspensions have been extended – for example ‘city of Glouc’ has been extended to ‘city of Gloucester’. The only exception to this is when the name of a county has been contracted – so ‘county of Glouc’ remains as ‘county of Glouc’.

² GBR, B/2/1, fol. 98v.

³ See Appendix 5. I would like to thank Margaret Condon for her help and advice regarding this Latin writ.

⁴ ‘Pillotes’ – in this context, a pilot was a mariner who guided ships through dangerous or congested waters – in this case, the River Severn.

⁵ King Road – the bay and roadstead that stretches two miles west from Avonmouth to Portishead.

the Bridge of Gloucester./

2. Item do you know that circuyte by water that is called the welshe roade⁶ yf ye Then whether doth the same extende harde to the shore of the English side, yea or noe.
3. Item Whether do you knowe the Creekes and Pills⁷ called Barkley Newenam and Gloucester, yea or no. yf yea. Then whether may a Shippe of Conuenient Burden fleete and Come to safely ride and abide in the same as in a place or places sufficient & meete to be portes of ladinge and discharginge And for the mainteynance and continiall keepinge of Shippes yea or no yf yea Then of what Burden must the shippes be that soe can continue and be ther And Whether may they come and goe passe and repasse at all tides and tymes (of winde & Weather serve.) yea or noe yf not Then at what tyde and tymes may they safely fleete to & from *with* sufficient water for all tempestes and weather.
4. Item do you know, the creeke called Gatcombe,⁸ yea or noe, yf yea Then what serviceable shippes⁹ and of what Burden may att all tymes in safty fleet & come to and from the said Creeke called Gatcombe. And whether may shippes of all manner of convenient Burdens, safly come & goe unto that creeke and ther ryde and abide as in a sufficient Portes, to receave and mainteyne shippes of Convenient Burden for service or defencible for the trade of merchandiz. yf not at all tymes, Then at what tyde or tymes may shippes of convenient Burden, come and goe in safty to the said creeke and ride & abide there and howe manie shippes may ride ther at on tyme And of what Burthen must the shippes be that shall come & goe at all tydes & tymes and of what Burthen must the shippes be of, that shall come & goe at quarter springe tyde And of What Burthen at half a springe tyde And so at

⁶ Welsh Road – the Welsh side of the River Severn.

⁷ ‘Creekes and Pills’ – In the Customs administration of Great Britain, a ‘creek’ is an inlet of insufficient importance to be considered a separate port. Creeks could however be included within the jurisdiction of other ports. A ‘pill’ was a local term for tidal creeks.

⁸ Gatcombe served as the main outport for the port of Gloucester. It lies on the west bank of the River Severn – approximately twelve miles southwest of Gloucester or twenty-two miles by water..

⁹ ‘serviceable shippes’ – refers to ships large enough to have the capability of serving in the navy when required. Ships of 75 ton burden were considered the minimum size for such purposes: B. Dietz, ‘The royal bounty and English merchant shipping in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries’ *Mariner’s Mirror*, LXXVII (1991), 6.

a thirde and soe at a full springe tyde.¹⁰ And in your iudgment or opinion whether is that, or thother three creekes or all they meate to be a porte or portes of ladinge & discharginge of Shippes to and from the sea yea or no.

5. Item What Towne of populus village is ther nere unto that creeke called Gatcombe that reasonable may have Intelligence or make restraine, yf her *Majestie* sholde be deceived in discharginge ladinge or transpassinge of vittailles and *prohibited* wares
6. Item What be the Comodities or merchandize that the City of Gloucester and the people of the countres ther aboute do vent¹¹ and transporte from thence and wher *with* or *with* What trade be their small Barkes¹² or Boates mainteyned and sent to the sea.
7. Item Whether doe you thinke or are *perswaded* (all thinges Considered) that it will stand with or be against the Comon-Welth¹³ of that countrie that the said creekes shold be a porte or portes, or a place of ladinge and discharginge yea or no
8. Item Whether doe you thinke or by reason understande that if ther be a custome house allowed & kepte at Gloucester And the said creekes continued to be portes or places of ladinge & discharginge will the same be a spoile of Graine & vittailles & *prohibited* wares and so raise a derth of the same aswell in the Countries uppon Severne as in the City of Bristowe yea or noe./
9. Item Whether doe you understande or thinke that if the said custome house at Gloucester and the said creeke shall Continialy be portes of ladinge and discharginge will the same be a hinderannce unto the trade of the City of Bristowe and a decay and dimminishinge of the serviceable Shippinge & skilfull *mariners* of the same City yea or noe

¹⁰ 'full springe tide' – this refers to the strong tides that occur twice-monthly, after a full moon and new moon. The high tides of a spring tide are very high whilst the low tides are very low.

¹¹ 'vent': to sell.

¹² 'Barkes' – a bark was a general term for any sailing vessels of a small size.

¹³ 'Comon-Welth': in this context, the common good.

10. Item What distance of place is ther by water betweene kingrode and the said Creeke called Gatcombe And What distance betweene Gatcombe and Gloucester.
11. Item What do you thinke or What is your opinion. Will her *Majestie* be better served if the said creekes uppon Seaverne were under the serch survey and Controlment of the officers of the porte of Bristowe (as hertofore they have ben) dwellinge and lyinge betweene that parte of Severne and the sea, or els by officers of the Custom house of Gloucester beinge and dwellinge so farr behind them inwarde toward the lande.
12. Item what shipp or shippes of convenyent burden for servyce or for trade of merchandize have you knowen to be buylded by any *merchannte* or *merchanntes* of Gloucester. yf you have knowne any suche, then whether were theye full buylded or fynished *with* mastes & yeardes or ells were theye brought downe from gloucester or from any creeke thereabout, haulfe builded & unfurnished or in what state were they when they came downe Severne, And what water myght they drawe beinge so farr builded & unfurnished as ~ afore saide, And of what burden was the saide shippe or shippes yf any ~~were~~ suche were. And whether did or could the saide shippe or shippes retourne agayine to Gloucester or to any the creekes thereabout, *with* convenyient ladinge, yf not, then at what rode or place was she kepte & maynteyned afterwarde.
13. Item. howe longe or howe many yeares maye suche a shippe as maye come & goe ryde and fleete at gatcome be kepte & maynteyned there, as in a porte of rest betweene dischardginge & ladinge, & indure & abyde all wyndes and weathers.

Thomas Hanam
Thomas Throkmorton

Rychard pate ~

3r.

Interrogatories to be minisered to *merchanntes* and owners of Shippes¹⁴

Inprimis do you knowe or have harde of a porte or portes to be newlie erected upon or in the creeke of Severne betwene the Welsh Roade & Tuexbury to be place of ladinge & discharginge of shippes & of a custome howse latly erected & sett upp at Gloucester ye or noe

Item Whether Will to *your* reason or understandinge thereccion of the same custome howse and thappointinge of the Creekes to be portes be and turne to an encrease of small Barkes & a diminishinge of the nomber and trade of grete shippinge to the porte of Bristowe belonginge And wheather do you know or understande that the same is, or wilbe by meanes *preiudiciall* or hurtfull to the inhabitantes of the Citie of Bristowe in *provision* & victuellinge of the said Citie *with* Corne graine & other victuells yf yea then what rison yeld ye for the same

Item Whether doth the state & mainteynance of the City of Bristowe stand chieflie uppon the makinge of collered Clothes for the sea & uppon the trad of *merchanddize* yea or no.

Item Whether have all the Creekes uppon Seaverne betwene Bristowe & Twexbury alwaies ben belonginge to the porte of Bristowe, as members of the same yf yea Then how you know the same to be true. Whether by annsweringe the Quenes *Majestie's* Costomes & duties at that custome house of Bristowe or otherwise, or otherwise.¹⁵ And whether you know ~ understand & can give reason that therreccion of the said Custome house and the Changinge of the said creekes to be portes wilbe *with* or against the Comon welth of the Citie & Countrie of Gloucester and of the Citie of Bristowe & the Countrie therabouts.

Interrogatories to be minisered to Bakers, Brewers & victualls
of the City of Bristowe. /

Inprimis do you know, or have hard of a port or portes to be newlie erected upon or in the creekes betwene the Welshe rode & Tuexbury to be places of ladinge and dischardginge of shippes & of a

¹⁴ Although this additional set of interrogatories is found alongside the other sets of interrogatories pertaining to this commission, it would appear from the lack of corresponding depositions that the commissioners did not directly question any Bristol deponents using these interrogatories.

¹⁵ The clerk appears to have mistakenly repeated this phrase.

Customes howse latly erected and sett upp at Gloucester yea or noe.

Item have the Citie of Bristowe, bene used for the most parte to be victualls *with* Corne & graine and some other *provision*, out of & from the Creekes upon Seaverne, And Whether have the *merchanntes* of the same Citie uttered & vented the gretest parte of their *merchandize* by and through the said Creekes. /

Item Whether did the said creekes belonge unto and were directed by the Custome house and Port of Bristowe. /

Item Whether hath or by comon reason will thereccion of the said Custome howse raise or bring derth of Corne and graine aswell in & about the Citie of Gloucester and the Countries thervnto adioyng as to the Citie and Citizens of Bristowe and the Countries theraboutes yea or no yf yea Then what mouth you so to affirme or What reason yeld you for the same. /

Item What troble Charge or inconveniencie was ther for the Cittie of Gloucester, the Townes of Tuexbury bewlie¹⁶ worcescor and Sherewsburie to make theire entries and take out their cockettes¹⁷ at the Custome howse of Bristowe priore then to make entries and take out cockettes at the Custome howse of Gloucester. /

Item to *your* knowled or understandinge who or what persons be they that are benifited or eased by makinge entries & takinge out of Cockettes at the Custome howse of Gloucester. And whether is the same *aldgership*¹⁸ allweis serviced comoditie to all the people theraboutes poore and rich or is it a private comoditie for farmors & Corne *merchannts* & a few suche other yea or no. /

Item Whether have there ben greater derth or scarsitie of corne & graine in & aboute the Citie of Gloucester sithence thereccion of the said Custome howse Then ther was before yea or no And whether tolde or can you make *provision* of corne & graine from Gloucester & the countries from thence upp Severne as good cheap as plentifull & *without* exaccions sethens thereccion of the said custome

¹⁶ 'bewlie' – probably referring to Bewdley, a small town a few miles west of Kidderminster and on the banks of the River Severn.

¹⁷ 'cockettes': cockets. In this context, a customs certificate to allow prohibited wares to be sent coastwise.

¹⁸ 'aldgership': aldership. In this context, aldership refers to the authority of the head port of Gloucester.

howse as you might & could before yea or noe yf not Then wherof riseth the derth or grete prices the scarsitie and the Charge that you are now putt unto, more then before to your knowledge or what reasones can you yeld for the same. /

Item Whether hath there ben more or greater transportinge & conveyinge awaye of Corne & graine from Gloucester and all the Countries upp Seaverne sithens¹⁹ therreccion of the said Custome howse, then their was before yea or no. yf yea. Then What moveth you so to affirme or what reason yeld you for the same.

Articles to be minisered unto Bargemen and Trowmen uppon
the River of Severne betweene the Citie of Bristow & the Towne of
Shrewsbury.

Imprimis do you know or have harde of a port or portes to be newlie erected uppon or in the Creek betweene the Welsh rode & Tewexbury, to be place of ladinge & discharginge of Shippes & of a Custome house latlie erected and sett upp att Gloucester yea or noe.

Item when or in what Custome house do you now make *your* entries & take out cockettes for *your* Corne graine & other victuells *which* you do transporte carie or recarie betweene *ye* towne of Shrewsbury & the City of Bristowe, yf at Gloucester then Whether do you finde or have you ease *profittes* comoditie or troble charges & discomoditie²⁰ by makinge *your* entrie & takinge our *your* cockette at Gloucester or What difference find you therin in respecte of the comon welth of the Countrie.

Item Whether have you bene so freighted or laden *with* corne and graine to the Citie of Bristowe, sithens the erectinge of the said Custome howse at Gloucester, as you were before yea or no yf not Then what know you, or take you thoccasion therof to be And Whether in What Barke or Botes is the same Corne & graine conveyed or transported And Whether more corne & graine have bene shipped for the sea Sithens thereccion²¹ of the said custome howse of Gloucester then ther was before, yea or no. Whether is ther therby risen a derth and scarcite of corne & graine

¹⁹ 'sithens': since.

²⁰ 'discomoditie': archaic term for inconvenience.

²¹ 'thereccion': the erection.

in and about the Citie of Gloucester & in and about the Citie of Bristowe ye or no. /

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Hannam
Thomas Throckmorton

4r.

deposicions of wytnesses sworn and examined taken at Berckley in the countie of
Gloc the xvij and xvij dayes of Januarie in the xxvth yere²² of the raigne of our soveraine
ladie Elizabeth ~~th~~ by the grace of god of England Franncce and Irelande Queene defendor
of the fayeth ~~betwene~~ before Thomas Throckmorton Richarde Pate and Thomas
hanam Esquire by vertue of the Queenes *majesties* Comission out of her graces heigh
courte of excheaquer unto Sir William Wynter knight and them addressed for the
examinacion of wytnesses touchinge matters in controversie in the same same court
dependinge betwene, the mayor and comunaltie of the cytie of Brystoll ~~and the compt~~
and the mayor and Burgesses of the cytie of Gloucester defendeth.

Ex parte quer²³

Walter Stanfast of the citie of Brystoll merchant borne at Arlingeham²⁴
in the countie of Glouc of the aige of three skore years and upwardes sworn and examined
to the fyrst Inrerrogatory ~~he~~ sayeth That he knoweth the River of Seaverne verie well
and the most parte of the Creekes and Pilles betwene kingerode and the bridge of Gloucester

To the seconde Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth that cirquite by water *which* is called
the Welshe Roade and that the same doth extende harde to the shore of the englyshe
syde. ~

To the thyrde Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth the Creekes and Pilles called
Barkley, Newneham and Gloucester and sayeth allso that there cannot any shypp of

²² 'xxvth yere' – Elizabeth's twenty-fifth regnal year ran from 17th November 1582 to the 16th November 1583.

²³ 'Ex part quer': on one side.

²⁴ 'Arlingeham' – Arlingham is a village on the east bank of the Severn, approximately eleven miles downstream of Gloucester.

conveniente ~~V~~ burthen²⁵ Fleete and come to, safelie ryde, and abyde in the same as in a place or places sufficient and meete to be portes of ladinge and discharginge nor fytt for the mayntenance and contynewall keepinge of Shippes And he farther sayeth that there cannot any Shipp or barke of above twentie or fyve and twentie tonnes be nor contynewe there, and he farther sayeth that there cannot any Shipp or vessall drawinge myndfoole of water beinge noe trogh²⁶ come and goe passe and repasse to y Gloucester at all tydes and tymes though wynd and weather serve except onlie at a Springe tyde.

To the fowerth Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth the Creeke called Gatcombe and that noe serviceable Shyppe or any other of above fortie tonnes can at all tymes in safetie fleet and come to and from the said Creeke called Gatcombe and he farther sayeth that shippes of convenient burthen cannot safelie come and goe unto that creeke and there ryde and abyde as in a sufficient porte to receive and mayneteyne shippes of convenient burthen for service or defencible for the trade of marchandizes except onlie at springe tides and he farther sayeth that there cannot ride there at one tyme aboue vij or viij both in the pills and ~~stande~~ Creekes there *which* most all lie agrounde at loe water and he farther sayeth that noe shipp of any burthen can come and goe there at all tymes and tydes / at quarter springe tydes onlie ~~vessells~~ vessells of x tonne or xij tonnes at the moste can passe to gatcombe at halfe springe tyde a vessell of xx^{tie} tonnes may come thither yf she have a good wynde / at a full springe tyde a vessell of fortie tonnes and not aboue can come thither and he farther sayeth that neither Gatcome nor the other iij creekes nor all they are meet to be a port or portes of ladinge and discharginge of Shippes.

To the fyveth Interrogatory he sayeth that there is noe towne or populus place neere the said creeke of Gatcombe that reasonable maye have intelligence or *make* restraynte yf her *majestie* shoulde be deceived in discharginge ladinge or transpassinge of victualls and *prohibited* wares.

To the syxe Interrogatory he sayeth that the onlie comodities or marchandizes *which* the citizens of Gloucester and the people of the cuntrie there aboute doe vente are for the

²⁵ 'burthen': burden.

²⁶ 'trogh': trow. In the context of the River Severn at this time, a trow was a small flat-bottomed sailing barge.

most *parte* Corne and fruite and some waxe.

To the seventh *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he thinketh that it is against the common welthe of the cuntrie that the said creekes shoulde be a porte or portes or a place of ladinge and discharginge.

To the eyghth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that yf there be a custome howse ¶ allowed and kept at *Glocester* and the said Creekes contynewed to be portes or places of ladinge and discharginge the same wilbe a spoyle of grayne and victualls and *prohibited* wares and soe rayse a dyrrh²⁷ of the same aswell in the cuntries uppon Seaverne as in the cytie of Brystoll

To the nyth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that yf the custome howse of *Glocester* ¶ contynewe there and the said Creekes contynewe to be portes of ladinge and discharginge the same wilbe a hinderance unto the trade of the cytie of Brystoll and a drayne of the servicable Shippinge and skylfull marreners of the same citie.

To the tenth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that that there is Betwene the creek of Gatcombe and ~~Glocester~~ Kingeroade distance by water syxetene or seventene myles and betwene gatcombe and *Glocester* there is distance xiiij or xiiij myles.

To the eleventh ~~h~~ *Interrogatory* he sayeth that in his oppinion yf the custome howse were kept onlie at kingeroade and Brystoll the same woulde be more beneficiall to her *majestie* than yf the custome howse nowe newlie erected at *Glocester* should have his contynewance the same beinge soe farr from thence behinde in towardes the lande and he farther sayeth that the erection of the custome howse at *Glocester* both is and wilbe a greate increase of smale barks ~~and a great increase of smale barks~~ and a great diminissinge of the number and trade of the greate shippinge belonginge to the port of Brystoll and a great hinderance of the *provision* of victualls and grayne in Brystoll and he sayeth that he is *perswaded* to thincke soe for that these smale vessells doe and will furnish the cuntie²⁸ all upp Severne *with* oyles Iron

²⁷ ‘dyrrh’: dearth.

²⁸ ‘cuntie’: country.

trayne²⁹ and spisons³⁰ and suche lyke wares wherewith the great shippinge of Bristoll were woertie³¹ to be maynteyned and sett as woorke. And further sayeth that the estate and mayntenance of the cite of Bristoll standeth cheefelie uppon makinge of cullored clothes for the sea and uppon the trade of marchandize and further sayeth that all the creekes betwene Bristoll and Tewxburie have allwayse before the erection of the said custome howse at Glocester bin belonginge to the porte of Brystoll as members of the same.

To the twelveth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he knewe a Shipp called the Marie Fortune *which* was begunned to be buylded at Glocester by one *master* Roberte Poole and there the Hull was in a manner full buylte and so was brought downe to Gatcome as light as she might be and was afterward finished at Gatcombe beinge then a shippe of aboute fower score tonnes burthen and he hath harde saye by one that wento in ther that the said Shipp goinge to sea tooke in a *parte* of her ladinge at Gatcombe and the rest of her ladinge was brought downe to her at Inwarde Pill where she had more

Thomas Hanam

Rychard pate ~

Thomas Throckmorton

5r

water, and she never returned thither againe but was vsuallie kept in Chepstowe as longe as she endured and he further sayeth that he knowe one other shipp of three skore and tenne tunnes or neer fower skore tonnes ~~beginne~~ beganne to be bylitt at Fromeloude³² by one William Bullock *which* was brought downe to Brystoll in lyke manner as the other shipp was brought to Gatcombe and was at Brystoll kept and maynteyned

²⁹ ‘trayne’: this is probably a reference to trayne oil - now known as cod liver oil. This was used to light lamps.

³⁰ ‘spisons’: spices.

³¹ ‘woertie’: worthy.

³² ‘Fromeloude’: Framilode – a small village on the east bank of the River Severn, approximately eight miles downstream of Gloucester.

which shippis did ~~dwar~~ drawe³³ as this deponent thincketh nyne or tenne foote water where they were brought downe Severne.

To the thyrtyenth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that the roade³⁴ at Gatcombe is verie dangerus and therefore he thincketh a Shipp cannot longe contynewe and indure there.

Patricke Carter of the cytie ~~of the cytie~~ of Brystoll marener havinge dwelt there aboute three yeres and beinge before that an Inhabitante of the cytie of Glocester by the space of fowertene yeres or thereaboutes, of the aige of Fortie yeres or thereaboutes sworn and examined to the Fyrst *Interrogatory* he sayeth That he knoweth the ryver of Severne verie well and hath bin alwayes for the most parte duringe the terme aforesaid bin usinge in trowes boates and Barkes uppon Severne betwene Glocester and Brystoll and by meanes thereof knoweth the Creekes and Pills betwene Kingeroade and the bridge of Glocester and all the shelfes and dangers therein aswell those under water as those aboute water.

To the seconde *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he knoweth the cirquite by water that is called the Welshe roade and sayeth that the same doth extende harde to the shore of the Anglyshe syde.

To the thyrde *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he knoweth the creekes and Pilles called Barkeley Newneham and Glocester and sayeth that noe shipp of convenient burthen maye Fleete³⁵ and come to safelie ryde and abyde in the same as in a place or places sufficiente and meete to be portes of ~~land~~ ladinge and discharginge and for the mayntenance and conynewall keepinge of Shippis and that the barkes and Shippis which maye convenyentlie contynewe and be there most bee but of twentie or fyve and twentie tonnes, and yf he be of thyrty tonnes he is not conveniente for that ryver and farther sayeth that even those Shippis and Barkes of xx^{tie} and xxv^{tie} tonnes

³³ The amount of water that the 'shippis did drawe' refers to the depth of water that a particular vessel required in order to float.

³⁴ In this context, 'roade' refers to the river at Gatcombe.

³⁵ 'Fleete': float.

cannot ryde passe and repasse at all tydes and tymes though wynde and weather serve, but sayeth that they maye onlie passe at the springe tydes *with* sufficiente water.

To the fowerth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he knoweth the creeke called Gatcombe and sayeth that noe shipp of ~~conueniente~~ fytt for service or of aboue thyrtye tonnes maye at all tymes safelie Fleet and come to and from the said creeke called Gatcombe and that noe shipp of conueniente burthen or fytt for service can safelie goe unto that Creeke and there ryde and abyde as in a sufficiente porte to receive and mayneteyne shippes of convenient burthen for service or defencible for the trade of marchandize for he sayeth that there is noe good moringe place for them there / and sayeth that there maye ryde at Gatcombe \forall fyve or syxe barkes of twentie tonnes apeare at one tyme and that more then that number of v or vi cannot well ryde there at one tyme And farther sayeth that at Nepe tydes³⁶ or tymes a boate of fyve tonnes cannot come and goe to gatcombe / at quarter springe tydes a barke or boate of fyvetene tonnes cann but hardlie come to Gatcombe / at halfe springe tydes a barke or boate of eyghtene tonnes or thereaboutes can but come to Gatcombe / at thyrde quarter springe tydes a barke or boate of twentie tonnes maye come thither at full springe tydes a shipp or barke of fyve and twentie or neer thyrtye tonnes can come thyther And farther sayeth that in his iudgement and oppinion the said creeke called Gatcombe and the other three creekes mentioned in the thyrde *Interrogatory* nor they all are meete to be a porte or portes of ladinge and discharginge of Shippes to and from the Sea for that none but such smale barkes as are aforesaide can come thither

To the fyveth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that there is noe towne nor populus place neer vnto the creeke called Gatcombe that maye have intellegence and make restraynte yf her *Majestie* shoulde be deceived in discharginge ladinge or transpassinge of victualls or prohibited wares, but sayeth that in Gatcombe there are the howse of one master Baring (whoe is verie seldome or not at all there dwellinge) and fyve other howses inhabited

³⁶ 'Nepe tydes' – Nepe tides occur just after the first or third quarters of the moon, when the high-water level is lowest and there is the least difference between high and low water levels.

by verie poore people and the men inhabitinge there beinge verie fewe are all such as twoe excepted are abroad from that place at woork for their lyvinge and the Inhabitan^{tes} of Etlowe are all husbandmen³⁷ and marreners *which* travaile abroad for their lyvinge and lyve elsewhere as those of gatcombe.

To the syxth he sayeth that the comodities or marchandizes that the cytie of Glocester and the people of the cuntries there abouts doe vent and tranceport from thence are ~~onlie~~ cheefelie aples³⁸ and corne and farther sayeth that yf it be not a good ~~apple~~ apple and fruitefull ~~yeare~~ yere they of Glocester and the said other creekes maye moare upp the most *parte* of their owne shippinge and boates³⁹ for any thinge they have to doe for them And farther sayeth that their smale boates and barks are maynetayned and sent to sea *with* such fruites as the cuntrie doth yeald and *with* apples and peares syder and corne and such lyke fuites.

To the seventh Interrogatory he sayeth that he thincketh and is verelie perswaded that it will stand and be against the common wealth of that cuntrie that the said creekes should be a port or portes or a place or places of ladinge and ~~discharge~~ discharginge for he sayeth that he hath harde the people of that cuntries much to mislyke and speake against the havinge of a porte there for that corne thereby is verie much conveyed awaye and the pryce of corne thereby much inhannsed⁴⁰ and little brought to the markette for that they *which* have corne to sell covett⁴¹ to sell it in grosse quantities togeather.

To the eyghth Interrogatory he sayeth that he knoweth of his owne knowledge that synce the custome howse hath bin at Glocester the price of corne is raised both in the cuntie uppon Seaverne and in Brystoll.

³⁷ ‘husbandmen’ – men who till or cultivate the soil, farmers.

³⁸ ‘aples’: apples.

³⁹ The claim here is that Gloucester men only had a need for their boats when there was a good apple harvest and they consequently had surplus fruit to trade.

⁴⁰ ‘inhannsed’: enhanced. The claim here is that so much corn was being illicitly exported by Gloucester men that there were local shortages and subsequent inflated prices.

⁴¹ ‘covett’: covet – desire. The implication here is that it was more profitable for corn sellers to export their produce in larger quantities rather than selling it in smaller quantities at local markets.

Thomas Throkmorton
Rychard pate ~

Thomas Hannam

6r.

To the nyth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he thincketh that yf the custome howse at *Glocester* have his contynewance and the said creekes contynewe to be portes of ladinge and discharginge, the same wilbe a hinderance to the trade of *Brystoll* and a decaye of the greate shippinge and skylfull marreners there.

To the tenth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that *Gatcombe* is distante by water from kingroade about twentie miles and that *Glocester* is distante from *Gatcombe* by water neer twentie miles allso.

To the eleventh *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he thincketh it verie inconvenient that the custome howse of *Glocester* beinge soe farr into the lande and behinde the trade shoulde have his contynewance therefore he sayeth that he hath knowen a shipp called the *Minion* cominge out of *Spayne* whoe had a leake fallen on her at sea and by that tyme she came to kingeroade her men were even almost tyred *with avoydinge*⁴² the water out of the said Shipp, now yf the said Shipp shoulde have sent to *Glocester* for enteringe her custome there she must of necessitie bin cast awaye before she could have had annswer from thence but beinge a shipp bounde for *brystoll* she sent to enter her custome there and lyters⁴³ were sent to her from *Bristoll* and thereby she was saved.

To the twelveth he sayeth that he knowe of a shipp of about three skore tonnes called the *grayehounde* beinge begonn to be bylte aboue *Glocester* *which* was brought downe to *Bristoll* beinge *without* mastes or yardes and onlie bylt twoe or

⁴² 'avoydinge': avoiding.

⁴³ 'lyter' – a boat or vessel, usually a flat-bottomed barge, used in lightening or unloading (sometimes loading) larger ships that could not be discharged (or loaded) at a wharf.

three strakes above the wale⁴⁴ *which* coulde hardelie be brought to brystoll from Glocester as she then was havinge three or fower whole springes to come from Glocester to Brystoll and yet was lyke to have, but cast awaye in comminge be meanes of the smale depeth of the water *which* shipp in that *estate* he thincketh did then drawe about eyght or nyne foote water *which* shipp beinge afterwarde full buylte coulde never come aboue the suites⁴⁵ but hath alwayes sythens bin kept and mayneteyned in the harbor and haven of brystoll.

To the thyrtyenth Interrogatory he sayeth that the roade ~~off~~ at Gatcombe is not passinge a cables length long⁴⁶ and halfe a cables length brode rockes beinge a head and a sterne⁴⁷ and dangerus groundes on the Seaberde syde soe that it is a place inconvenient for any shipp of service to be kepte in, for that there they are agrounde at three quarters flud yf it be a shipp of any burthen, and by reason of the *badnes* of the haven and the face of the tyde of the ryver of Severne she cannot be longe kept and maynteyned there. And he farther sayeth that yf they of Glocester happen to have any vessell of shipp of about fortie tonnes they keepe them for the most *part* and lade them and discharge from either in kingeroade hungeroade or the welsh roade or in some place belowe Gatcombe, for the said Ryver of Severne is so dangerus that they dare not adventure neither their shipp nor goodes ~~in~~ to Glocester nor the other said Creekes yf the shipp drawe above nyne foote of water except it be uppon a good rounde springe.

John Barrett marrener ~~of~~ dwellinge in Brystoll and borne at minsterwood⁴⁸

⁴⁴ ‘twoe or three strakes above the wale’ – wales were the horizontal planks or timber that extended along the sides of a vessel. The implication here is that only the most basic framework of the vessel had been constructed in Gloucester. This primitive structure was then floated down the Severn to Bristol with significant difficulties. The deponent claims that the building of the ‘grayhounde’ was then completed in Bristol, where it was also furnished with masts and yards. The deponent claims that it would have been impossible for the completed boat to return to Gloucester.

⁴⁵ ‘aboue the suites’: above the river chute, ie. the mouth of the River Severn.

⁴⁶ ‘a cables length long’ – a cable’s length is a nautical unit of measure equal to one tenth of a nautical mile or one hundred fathoms. One cable’s length is approximately 185 metres.

⁴⁷ ‘rockes beinge a head and a sterne’ – the implication here is that any ship coming to Gatcombe would be surrounded by dangerous rocks and would struggle to moor safely.

⁴⁸ ‘minsterwood’: Minsterworth – a village on the west bank of the River Severn, approximately four miles downstream from Gloucester.

in the countie of Glocester of the aige of fortie fower yeres or thereabouts sworn and examined to the fyrst *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he knoweth the Ryver of Severne and the creekes and Pills betwene kingroade and the bridge of Glocester

To the seconde *Interrogatory* he sayeth as Walter Stanfast before hath sayed.⁴⁹

To the thyrde *Interrogatory* he sayeth he knoweth the Creekes and Pills called Barkley Newneham and Glocester and that noe shipp of conveniente burthen can fleet and come to and safelie ryde and abyde in the same as in a place or places sufficiente and meete to be portes of ladinge and discharginge neither for the mayntenance and contynewall keepinge of Shipps of Burthen and sayeth that shypps of twentie fyve tonnes maye be an contynewe there And farther sayeth to the said *Interrogatory* as Walter Stanfast before him hath sayed.

To the fowerth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he knoweth the creeke called Gatcombe and that serviceable Shipps cannot at all tymes fleet and come to and from the said creeke called Gatcombe neither maye Shipps of convenient burthen *with* safetie come to the said Creeke and there abyde and Ryde as in a sufficient porte to mayneteyne shipps of Convenient burthen for service and farther sayeth as Patrick Carter before him hath sayed.

To the fyveth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he knoweth noe towne nor pupulus place neither is there any towne or populus place or village neer unto the creeke called Gatcombe that maye convenientelye have intelligence and make restrynte yf her *majestie* shoulde be ~~dismissed~~ deceaved in discharginge ladinge or transpassinge of victualls and p[ro]hibited wares.

To the syxth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that the comodities and marchandizes *which* the cytie of Glocester and the cuntries there aboute doe vente and transporte

⁴⁹ The initial responses made by deponents would be copied down onto paper by the scribe. When all the depositions had been made, the scribe would then copy these depositions on to parchment. It seems that the scribe saved time here by stating that the deponent's answer to this interrogatory was so similar to a previous deposition that it would not be worth copying it out in full. Bryson, *Equity Side of the Exchequer*, 139.

from thence and ~~therewyth~~ where *with* their smale barkes and boates be maynteyned
are corne apples and such lyke fruites.

Thomas Hanam

Rychard pate ~

Thomas Throkmarton

7r.

To the seven and eyghth *Interrogatory* he cannot depose any thinge materiall

To the nynth *Interrogatory* he sayeth as Patrick Carter hath sayed.

To the tenth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that Gatcombe is from kingeroade by water
aboute twentie myles and that *Glocester* is from Gatcombe aboute twelve myles.

To the eleventh twelveth and thyrteenth *Interrogatory* he cannot depose

Thomas Foster of Sherehampton⁵⁰ in the countie of Gloc sayler of the
aige of fyftie yeres of thereabouts one of the Pylottes of the Ryver of Severne
sworen and examined to theffecte of all the *Interrogatories* he sayeth that aboute
mydsomer last past there came a shipp called the Grayhounde *which* belonged
to Miles dickenson of Brystoll and to one Richarde Lydger of the burthen
of fortiefower tonnes laden *with* Salte into kingeroade *which* ladinge the said myles
dyckenson woulde have discharged at Gatcombe and therefore sente t up Severne
to get some skylfull pilott to bringe the same shipp thither *with* his burthen
but as he hath harde the said dickenson and Lydger to reporte whoe were owners
of the said Shipp noe ~~pille~~ Pilott of the said Ryver would take the charge
uppon him to bringe the said Shipp *with* for ladinge unto Gatcombe the
said Shipp drawinge then but tenne foot of water and stayinge in kingeroade
about fyve dayes to be brought to Gatcombe, and therefore was not brought

⁵⁰ 'Sherehampton': Shirehampton, a village on the edge of Bristol situated approximately two miles away from where the mouth of the River Avon meets the River Severn.

and discharged at Gatcombe but went to ~~kingeroade~~ ^{kingeroade} hungeroade where she was discharged.

Anthonye Phyllipes of the cite of Brystoll Baker aiged fyftie fower yeres to the fyrst *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he hath harde of the erectinge of the custome howse in Glocester and hath lykewyse⁵¹ harde of certeyne portes betwene the welshe roade and ~~Tewexk~~ Tewexburie.

To the seconde *Interrogatory* he sayeth that the inhabitantes of Brystoll have bin vitled⁵² from Tewexburie and Glocester from Tewexburie especiallye *with* corne victuall and other *provision* and from other the creekes of Glocester.

To the thyrde *Interrogatory* he sayeth that before this tyme they the citizens of Brystoll payed for the sight of everie Cockett comminge from the custome howse of Brystoll and goinge through Glocester bridge fower pence onlie.

To the Fowerth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that they the bakers of Brystoll have not bin *served with* graine from the cytie of Glocester in such sort as they were wonte⁵³ to be for he sayeth their cockettes brought from bristoll would not be allowed by the officers of Glocester but sayeth where they have demanded corne there by their trowe men annswere have bin made the cuntrie coulde not spare it, the reason of the skercitie⁵⁴ thereof this deponent knoweth not.

To the fyveth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he thincketh it noe more trouble not charge for the townes of Glocester Tewexburie woorceter Bewdley and Shrewesburie to make their entries and take out their cockettes out of the custome howse of Brystoll then to have and take out the same at Glocester for he sayeth that those townes aboute Glocester vsed to sende for their cockettes and warranties

⁵¹ 'lykewyse': likewise.

⁵² 'vitled' – victualled.

⁵³ 'wonte': wont – accustomed.

⁵⁴ 'skercitie': scarcity

By their trowemen to Brystoll to serve there townne from springe to springe and more easylye he thinketh they cannot have them from Glocester.

To the syxth *Interrogatory* he sayeth that he thincketh that it is for the ease of such as be corne marchantes at or about *Glocester* but he thinketh it hurtfull to the *common* people rather than any benefeite⁵⁵ to them to take out their cockettes at *Glocester*.

To the seventh *Interrogatory* he sayeth that sythens the erection of the custome howse at *Glocester* they cannot nor coulde not have their *provysion* of corne and grayne from *Glocester* and the cuntries from thence upp seaverne as they coulde have before, the reasons whereof he this deponent cannot sett downe because he hath not of late travailed⁵⁶ in his owne person and farther to the said *Interrogatory* he cannot depose....

By pate *richard*

Thomas Hanam
Thomas Throkmorton

⁵⁵ 'benefeite': benefit.

⁵⁶ 'travailed': travelled.

8r.

Interrogatories to be ministered unto witnesses to be examynd on the parte and behaulf of the maior and Burgesses of the Cittie of Gloucester againste the maior and comunaltie of the Cittie of Bristoll. /

- 1 Inprimis of what adge be yowe / and are yowe, or have yowe benne, owner, or master, of any shippe barcke, boate, or trowe, uppon the River of Severne or a searcher deputie or *seruannt* to any searcher there and howe longe tyme, and are yowe, or have yowe ben a marryner or officer in any shipp bark boate or trowe, and howe longe tyme or have yowe vsed any trade of Carriadge ventring ladinge or passage of any commodities wares or *merchanndizes* by thesaid River of Severne, to Bristoll *devonshire* Cornwall wales and Irelande, or any other partes beyonnde the seas and howe longe tyme. /
- 2 Item wheather the Cittie and porte of Gloucester and the Creekes there be frequented or haunted with traffique of *merchanntes* and *merchanndizes* boothe inwarde and outwarde, and whether it be meete to be contynued for the same purpose / and wheather the same be necessary to be meyntheined⁵⁷ & advanced in *your* iudgment. /
- 3 Item howe many villadge howses creekes or townes are betwene the said Cittie of Bristoll / and the Roades for shippes and barckes called hungroade and howe farre distant is the villadge of Shirehampton from the said Roades of hungroade and kingroade.
- 4 Item do yowe knowe the portes townes and creekes of Bristoll hungrode kingroade Gatcombe Berckley newnham and Gloucester, and the townes of Twexburie wourcester Bewdley Bridgnorth, & Shrewisburie and howe longe tyme. And declare what distannce is betweene the said creekes of Berckley ~ Gatcombe and newenham kingroade hungroade and Bristoll. / everie one from thother, booth by water and lande / and what number of miles is from kingroade and Shrewisburie by water and lande as yowe iudge⁵⁸ / And doe yowe iudge that the key of Gloucester and the creekes of Berckley Gatcombe and ~ newnham be meete and apte places for ladinge unladinge and discharginge of wares *merchandizes* and comodities and declare *your* knowledge of the key of Gloucester and the state thereof And have *you*

⁵⁷ 'meynteined': maintained.

⁵⁸ 'iudge': judge.

knowne any shippes or barckes made and builte there, or about *Gloucester* by whome and of what burdens. /

- 5 Item wheather there be any more or greater number of ladinge and unladinge places vsed vppon the River of Severne, since the *Queenes Majestie's* grannt of the custome howse in *Gloucester*. / then there were vsed before. that grannt made, And wheather were the creekes of Gatcombe Backley and newenham vsed for places of ladinge and unladinge before the said grannt made to *Gloucester*. And wheather the shippes and barckes of Bristoll or those that Come to Bristoll with any merchandizes doe lade and unlade at hungroade of kingroade and wheather there is not good harboroughs for shippes lyenge uppon the Forreste of Deane side
- 6 Item what depth of water is the river of severne at Gatcombe uppon a full sea and what shippes of burden may fleete riste and lye at Gatcombe at full sea or springe tyme and with what expedicion may the same come from to gatcombe from kingroade. and what barckes boates or trowes have yowe knowen to come from gatcombe to *Gloucester* and with what expedicion.
- 7 Item wheather are the saide creekes of Gatcombe and newenham sufficient and convenyent places to discover all shippes barckes and boates passinge the same River of Severne, or have sufficient numbers of dwellinge howses and people there or neare unto the same places for meete service unto her *majestie* / And howe broade is the same river of severne at Gatcombe & newenham
- 8 Item doe yowe knowe or iudge wheather there have bynne any greater or small number of trowes or barckes within vj yeeres paste⁵⁹ then there weere in other yeeres before uppon the said River of severne betweene kingroade and Shrewisburie / And whether there have benne any greater trafique from Gatcombe to *Gloucester*, and the portes there adioyninge within that tyme then were used before /
- 9 Item doe yowe knowe of have harde whether any more and greater number of shippes boates barckes or trowes within vj yeeres paste have benne made and builte in any of the creekes or townes betwene Gatcombe and Shrewisburie then weere before in the same places duringe the

⁵⁹ 'vj yeeres paste' – the past six years, presumably referring back to the point at which Gloucester became a member port of Bristol in 1575.

lyke tyme before those vj yeeres / And wheather the *merchanntes* of Bristoll have not nowe as free and greate vente for all kindes of *merchanndizes* wares and comodities to all townes and places above and beneath Gloucester bridge as they had before the said grannt made of the custome howse to Gloucester /

- 10 Item wheather doe yowe not iudge that the said cittie of Bristoll hath benne aswell *serued* & prouided with commodities and wares from Gloucester Twexburie, and other places adioyninge within vj yeeres laste paste as in other tymes before. /
- 11 Item do yowe knowe or have harde wheather nowe there be any lesse carryadge of mawlte and other places commodities and wares from Twexburie to Gloucester for the relief of Bristoll then in times paste. And whether the said *Inhabitanntes* in Gloucester Twexburie and other places near adioyninge doe not sufficienly searve them of Brystoll as in tymes paste they did or weere used.
- 12 Item doe yowe iudge that any greater *œf* quantitie of leather butter or cheese hath ben commonly before vj yeeres paste transported and broughte from the portes and costes⁶⁰ of wales to Gloucester / otherwise than before that time.
- 13 Item doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather *thinhabitanntes* of the cittie of Bristoll duringe vj yeeres paste have not had cockettes grannted to them at Gloucester whensoever they have soughte for the same and by whence, and whether any grayne hath ben restrayned in Gloucester at any time to be carryed unto Bristoll and declare by whome howe often and when /
- 14 Item what plentie of Corne or grayne doe yowe iudge to have benne commonly transported & landed in Cornwall Devonshire and wales from Gloucester porte / And wheather the Cittie of Bristoll can furnishe and searue the countrey of Cornewall wales or Irelande with Corne & grayne better cheape than the cittie of Gloucester or as good cheape as the townes of Gloucester and Twexburie and other places adioyninge. /

⁶⁰ 'costes': coasts.

- 15 Item doe yowe knowe wheather the Queenes *majestie's* provision of mawlte and wheate for Irelande may be provided and furnished from the Cittie and countie of Glouc as good cheepe and better cheepe as it is was or mighte be from Bristol if there weere noe custome howse in Gloucester
- 16 Item doe yowe know howe many Cittizens of Gloucester doe nowe use or late did use, xx/xx/xx/xx and exercise husbandry or grasinge And declare the names of those persons / And whether were they free houlders of inheritannce or Indenture holders thereof And whether the trades of Cappers & clothiers be not mouche decayed in Gloucester within xx or xxx yeeres paste /

8v.

- 17 Item doe yowe knowe or can yowe iudge that the smalle boates barckes and trowes uppon severne have brede or can, or doe breede and increase able and sufficient marryners apte for sonndry⁶¹ *servi*ce by sea, and fitte for greater shippes. And wheather her *majestie* in tyme of *servi*ce hath not ben prouided of sonndry good marryners from the townes or places neer adioyninge to the river of severne and bredde in those small boates barckes or trowes And do *you* know wheather the small boates barckes or trowes in severne, be or have ben employed for her *majestie's* service into Irelande or noe /
- 18 Item doe yowe knowe wheather any barckes uppon severne doe used or have used to traveill into Ireland or any partes of Skotland or unto any other places beyonnd the seaes
- 19 Item do yowe knowe what stoare of fruite and sider by reasonable accompte is commonly every yeere transported in those barckes and boates from the county of Glouc into Cornwall devonshire Ireland wales and Bristoll / And wheather greate quantities of herringe and fishe be not retorned from all those places (excepte Bristoll) back agayne to *serve* the countreyes of Glouc wigorn⁶² Salopshire⁶³ Staffordshire warwick & other countreis aioyninge.
- 20 Item wheather one hundred tonnes of small shippinge doth not meinteyne and brede as many

⁶¹ 'sonndry': sundry.

⁶² 'wigorn': Worcestor.

⁶³ 'Salopshire': Shropshire.

and more marryners then a greate shipp of like burden / And Declare the reason thereof
And doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather any searcher or deputie or *seruannt* of souche
searcher hath used to attende, and doth commonly attende aswell at *Gloucester* as at ~
Gatcombe and newenham / at everie springe and other tymes for tryell searche and ~
vnderstandinge of thinges belonging to that office /

- 21 Item doe yowe knowe or have yowe harde wheather there is a custome howse of late
yeeres erected in *Gloucester* / And howe neere unto the River of severne / And whether the same
standeth commodious and apte for the Queenes *Majestie*'s officers and seruice there. / And what
stoare howses or places be there fitt to place wares in. /
- 22 Item do yowe iudge that a greate parte of all Corne & grayne vsed to be transported to Bristoll
devonshire Cornewall and wales hath benne lade at the key of *Gloucester* and at Twexburie
And wheather there hath benne any more carried of late yeeres from those twoe townes
or the countie of Glouc then in tymes paste /
- 23 Item wheather there be not mouch money saued in all the countrey and townes above *Gloucester* by
havinge, and obteyninge of their cockettes at *Gloucester* for the which they did before the said vj
yeeres travaill to Bristoll.
- 24 Item wheather any searcher his deputie or *seruannt* haue dwelte or remayned or both dwell or
remayne betweene Bristoll and Hungroade or kingroade or any of them and declare the names
of souche persons and the place or places of their habitation.

9r.

Interrogatories to be ministered unto witnesses to be examyned on the parte
and behaulf of the maiour and Burgesses of the Cittie of Gloucester againste the maiour
and communalte of the cittie of X X X X Bristoll . . hr/ ⁶⁴

- 1 **Inprimis** of what adge be yowe or are ye, or have yowe bynne owner or master of any shippe bunt boate,
or trowe uppon the Ryver of Severne or a searcher deputie or *seruannte* to any searcher there and how longe tyme, or are ye
or have ye bynne a marryner of officer in
any of the same shippes barckes boates or trowes, and howe longe tyme, or havinge used any trade of carriadge ~
ventringe ladinge, or passinge of any commodities wares, or marchanndizes by the said ryver of Severne to Bristoll
devonshire Cornewall, wales Irelande, or any Partes beyonnde the seaes and howe longe tyme./
- 2 Item wheather the cittie and Porte of Gloucester and Creeke theere be not frequented, or haunted with traffwyk
of marchanntes and marchanndizes booth inwarde and owtwarde / And wheather it be meete to be contynewed
for the same purposses. / Or wheather the creeke there be decayed and not soe mouche frequented with *merchants*
and *merchanndizes* as the same hathe bynne heretofore, or mighte be convenyently / and declare the causes
therrof / And wheather the same be necessarie to be contynewed and aduannced in *your* iudgment and shewe
the Reasones therof. /
- 3 Item howe many villadge howses creekes or Townes are standinge uppon the ryver of Aven goeing vnder the bridge
of Bristoll betwene the cittie of Bristoll, and the Roade for shippes and barckes called hungroade And
howe farr a distance is the villadge of Sheerehampton from the said Roade of hungroade, and howe many
howses are in every souche villedge and howe neare dothe the Countie of Glouc extende to the
Cittie of Bristoll and wheather kingroade and hungroade be within the Countie of Glouc yea
or noe. /

⁶⁴ This set of interrogatories is very similar in content to the previous set of interrogatories. In general, these interrogatories are much wordier and sometimes a little confusing. It would appear from a report of the first commission found in the records of the city of Gloucester, that this set of interrogatories was the original set that was used at the start of the commission. However, at the end of the first day of the commission, Gloucester's interrogatories 'at nighte were abridged' in order to simplify and clarify the questions being put to deponents. Although this set of interrogatories may therefore have been used when questioning the first Gloucester deponent, all deponents after this would have been questioned against the set of interrogatories inscribed on folios 8r. and 8v. See Appendix 5.

- 4 Item doe yowe knowe the portes townes and creekes of Bristoll hungroade kingroade Gatcombe Barkley newenham and Gloucester, and the townes of Tewkeisbury wourcester Bewdley Bridgnorth and Shrewisburie standinge uppon, or neere to the ryver of Seuerne yea, or noe And howe longe tyme to *your* remembrance and declare what distannce is betweene the said creekes of newenham Gatcombe Barkley kingroade hungroade and Bristoll every one from thother buothe by water and by lande and what number of myles is from kingroad to Shrewisburie by water and by lande, as *you* iudge. / And what number of dwellinge howses are builte and standinge in gatcombe or within hawlf a myle of Gatcombe / and doe *you* iudge that the key of Gloucester, and the creekes of newnham and gatcombe be meete & apte places for landinge ladinge unladinge & dischardginge of wares merchanndizes & commodities And declare *your* knowledge of the buildinge & makinge of the key of Gloucester / and have *you* knowen any shippes or barckes made and builte betweene Gloucester bridge and Gatcombe, and by whome & of what burdens /
- 5 Item wheather there be any more or greater number of ladinge and unladinge places used uppon the Ryver of severne synce the Queenes *majestie's* grannt of the custome howse in Gloucester / made to the towne of Gloucester then there were used before that grannt made. And wheather the ladinge and unladinge at Gloucester newenham and Gatcombe be now more hurtfull to her *majesty* than before / and wheather weere the creekes of Gatcombe Berckley & newenham used for places of ladinge and unladinge before the said grannte made to Gloucester of the custome howse there / And wheather the shippes and barckes of Bristoll or those that come to Bristoll with any merchanndizes wares or commodities doe lade and unlade at hungroade or in any other place and declare the manner of that doeinge / and howe far distant is the same from Bristoll. / And wheather there is not better harborowge in tyme of greate springes for shippes lyenge in kingroade on the forreste side then on the side of Bristolle /
- 6 Item what depthe of water is the ryver of severne at Gatcombe at full-sea / and what shippes of burden may fleete reste and lye at Gatcombe at full sea or at springe tyme / and with what expedicion may the same come to Gatcombe from kingroade / and what barckes and boates of burden / or trowes have ye knowen to come or may passe and come from Gatcombe to Gloucester and with what expedicion, and declare the same And what shippes, barckes of burden may passe from Gatcombe to Bristoll and from Bristoll to gatcombe. /
- 7 Item wheather are the saide creekes of Gatcombe & newenham sufficient & convenyent places whereby to discry⁶⁵ and discover all shippes barckes and boates passinge the saide ryver of severne or have sufficient numbers of dwellinge howses and people there or veary neere unto the same places to that or any other

⁶⁵ 'discry' – to perceive from a distance.

meete *service* for her *majestie* / and howe broade is the same Ryver of severne at Gatcombe and ~ newenham / and declare youre knowledge and iudgment thereof /

- 8 Item wheather doe yowe knowe or remember or have yowe harde what number of boates trowes or barckes *commonly* within twentie or fortie yeeres before the xviiijth yeere of the Queenes *majestie*'s Raigne were belonginge to thihabitanntes of Gatcombe / Barkley, newenham and to the townes & villages about newenham / That is to say minsterworth Longney Ellmore Gloucester, Twexbury upton uppon severne wourcester Bewdley Bridgnorth and Shrewisbury or any of them or to thinhabitanntes of any other townes or places uppon or neere severne / and of what burdens the same were *commonly* accompted or adiudged to be / And doe yowe knowe or remember or have yowe harde what number or boates barckes or trowes *commonly* within vj yeeres paste are or weere belonginge to thinhabitanntes of the townes portes and creekes before Recited and of what burdens / And doe yowe knowe or have harde what number of boates barckes or shippes *commonly* within twenty or fortie yeeres nexte before ~~thesaid~~ the said xviiijth yeere did come from Irelande Devonshire Cornewall wales, or any other places beyonde kingroade with any wares or marchanndizes to any of theforesaid xiiij Portes creekes or townes and of what burdens / And what number of shippes barckes boates or trowes *commonly* within vj yeeres laste paste have yowe knowne to come from Ireland Devonshire Cornewall wales or any other places beyonnde the seaes to any of the said portes Creekes or townes and of what burdens the same weere /
- 9 Item doe yowe knowe or remember what number of boates barckes or trowes have bynne belonginge to thinhabitants of Bristoll comonly within twentie or fortie yeeres before the saide xviiijth yeere of the Queene *majestie*'s Raigne⁶⁶ did come from Bristoll unto the saide Portes townes, or places names in the viijth Interrogatory and of what burdens / And what number of boates trowes and barckes have come from Bristoll comonly within vj yeeres laste paste to any of those places, and of what burdens / And doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather any more or greater number of shippes boates barckes or trowes within vj yeeres paste have bynne made or built, in any of the creekes or trowes betweene Gatcombe and Shrewisburie then weere before in the same places duringe the like tyme before those vj yeeres / And declare *your* knowledge herein and wheather the marchanntes of Bristoll have not nowe as free and greate vente for all kynds of merchandizes wares and Comodities to all townes and places above and beneath Gloucester bridge as they had before the said grannte made of the custome howse to Gloucester /

⁶⁶ 'xviiijth yeere of the Queene *majestie*'s Raigne' – Elizabeth I's eighteen regnal year ran from the 17th November 1575 to the 16th November 1576.

- 10 Item what kyndes or quantities of comodities have yowe knowne to be comonly transported or conveyed from the said portes Creekes townes or places mencioned in the said viijth Interrogatory / vnto Bristoll within twentie yeeres nexte before the said xvijth yeere of the Queenne *majestie's* Raigne / And wheather doe yowe not iudge that the saide Cittie of Bristoll hath ben aswell *serued* and Provided with comodities and wares from the said townes creekes portes and places within vi yeeres laste paste as duringe the like tyme ~~w~~⁶⁷ those twentie yeeres before and declare *youe* iudgment and reasons therein /
- 11 Item doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather nowe or of late yeeres there be any lesse vsuall and ordinary passadge and carriadge of mawlte and other grayne comodities and wares from Twexburie and Gloucester for the reliefe of Bristoll then in times paste And wheather the saide inhabitantes in Gloucester Twexburie and other places neere adioyninge are not aswell able sufficiently to furnishe the wantes and needs which the Citty of Bristoll shall have for mawlte and wheate and every springe doth sufficiently *serue* them as in tymes paste they did or were used / And what greater prices are comonly of those comodities in Bristoll nowe than in Gloucester or Twexbury
- 12 Item have yowe harde or doe knowe or iudge that any leather butter or chese have byn comonly before vj yeeres paste transported and broughte from the Portes and costes of wales to Gloucester yea or no. if yea then wheather in more lardge or ample manner before those vj yeeres paste within and sithence those vj yeeres And what quantities have yowe knowne *commonly* to have come within twentie yeeres paste and shewe the same.
- 9v.
- 13 Item doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather thinhabitance of the Citie of Gloucester duringe vj yeeres past have not had cockettes grannted to them at Gloucester whensoever they have sente for the same and by whome and wheather any grayne hathe ben restrayned in Gloucester at any tyme to be carried owte. And declare by whome howe often and when.
- 14 Item wheather any plentie of Corne be yeerly transported and landed in Cornewall Devonshire

⁶⁷ Illegible deleted word.

wales from the creekes townes places and portes mencioned in the said viijth Interrogatory and declare the same at ____⁶⁸ And of what state or quantity of corne or grayne hathe the Cittie of Bristoll ben *serued* with all from Cornewall duringe vj yeares paste / And wheather the cittie of Bristoll canne furnishe and *serve* the countreies of Cornewall wales and Ireland with corne and grayne better cheepe then the cittie *of Gloucester*, or as good cheepe as the townes of *Gloucester* and Twexburie And wheather the provision thereof may be done at *Gloucester* and Twexburie with lesse chardge then at Bristoll. And declare *your* iudgment & the reasons thereof.

- 15 Item doe yowe know of iudge wheather the Queene *majestie's* provision of mawlte and wheate may be provided and furnished from the Cittie Countie and Porte of *Gloucester* and the creekes thereunto belonginge as good chep and with a small Chadges or better cheeper unto her *majesty* and the country of Irelande as it is or was or may have ben *from* Bristoll if there were noe custome howse in *Gloucester* / And declare the reasons and causes thereof.
- 16 Item do yowe knowe howe many Cittizens of *Gloucester* doe nowe use or late did use, and exercise husbandry grasinge and declare the names of those persons And wheather weere they free houlders of inheritance or indenture howlders thereof / and what quantites of ground are or were by them soe used and howe neere unto the saide Cittie And wheather the trade of Cappers⁶⁹ and Clothiers be not mouche decayed in *Gloucester* within twentie or thirtie yeeres paste And have yowe knowen or harde of any Cittizens in *Gloucester* to use the trade of marchanndizes by ventringe⁷⁰ to the partes beyonnde the seaes or any other partes creekes or places and declare their names and all thinges concerneinge this interrogatory./
- 17 Item do yowe knowe or can iudge that the small boates trowes and barckes upon severnne have brede or can or doe breede or increase able and sufficient marryners apte for soundri *service* by sea & are too fitt for greather shippes / And wheather her *majestie* in soundri *services* hath not ben provided soundry good marryners from the townes uppon or nere adioyninge to the Ryver of severne and brede in those small barckes trowes and boates / when her highnes pleasure hath benne to require the

⁶⁸ The manuscript has deteriorated here, obscuring this word.

⁶⁹ 'Cappers': cap makers.

⁷⁰ 'ventringe': venturing.

same yea or noe declare the reasons thereof / And doe yowe knowe wheather the small boates or barckes uppon *serverne* be and have ben ymploiede⁷¹ for her *majestie's service* into Irelande yea or noe. / And sett downe youre Remembrance in all thinges for prooffe thereof/

- 18 Item doe you know wheather any barckes or boates uppon severne doe use or have used to traviell to Ireland or to any partes of Skottland or to any other places beyonnde the sea / And what comodities are or have bynn therein Retorned ~~in vij yeeres~~ to youre Remembrannce and declare the same and all thinges for prooffe thereof.
- 19 Item do yowe knowe what stoare of fruite and syder by reasonable accompte is commonly every yeer transported in those barckes and boates from the countie and portes of Gloucester into Cornewall Devonshire Irelande wales and Bristoll / And wheather greate quanteties of hearrings & fishes be not retorned from all those places excepte Bristoll back againe to *seruice* the countreyes of Glouc wigorn Heref⁷² Shropshire Stafforde warwick and other countreyes adioyning And declare *your* knowledge and remembrannce thereof/
- 20 Item wheather one hundred tonnes of small shippinge dothe not meyntheyne and breede as many marryners as more then a greatt shippe of like burden and declare the reasones thereof and doe *you* know or have harde wheather any searcher or deputie or *seruannte* of souche a searcher hath used to attende & doth comonly attende aswell at Gloucester as at Gatcombe and newenham at every springe and other tymes for tryall searche and understandinge of the Queenes *majestie's* benefitte commynge or passinge that way ~/
- 21 Item doe yowe knowe or have harde wheather there is a custome howse of late yeeres erected in Gloucester and in what place of that Cittie and howe neere unto the Ryver of Severne standeth the same howse and wheather it standeth commodious and apte for her *majestie's* officers there and to discerie barckes boates & trowes passinge that way / and tunderstande her *majestie's* benefitte and prouffitte comminge uppon that Ryver / And wheather doe *you* knowe that there be any stoare howses or howse apte to make stroare howses or places and Roomes meete to erecte stoare howses uppon neere unto the said custome howse.
- 22 Item doe *you* not iudge that the greateste parte of all corne and grayne used to be transported to

⁷¹ 'ymploiede': employed.

⁷² 'Heref': Herefordshire.

Bristoll Devonshire Cornewall and Irelande and wales hath not ben laden at the key of Gloucester and at Twexburie And wheather there hath ben any more corne or grayne carried commonly from those twoe townes within syx yeeres paste then commonly in the lite tyme within twenty or thirty yeeres before to youre knowledge and remembrannce /

- 23 ~~Item wheather have yowe knowen or harde that any shippes barekes or boates have before the grannt of~~
vacat ~~the said custome howse in Gloucester commen or traveilled from Irelande and other places with herringes~~
~~or other comodities to the cittie of Gloucester, and were forced to turne back to Bristoll for lack of a~~
~~custome howse in Gloucester yea or noe / and wheather have ye harde that any of the _____⁷³~~
~~inhabitanntes of Bristoll / did at any tyme move or perswade marchanntes of Barnestaple and~~
~~spannishe merchanntes or any other merchanntes that the saide Ryver of severne coulde not serve~~
~~for boates of x tune or upwardes / And declare youre Remembrannces thereof.~~
- 24 ~~Item doe yowe knowe or Remember of have harde whether thinhabitanntes of the said creekes or~~
vacat ~~portes mencioned in the viijth interrogatory. / or any of them did at any tyme carry and transporte their~~
~~corne and grayne to Cornewall Devonshire Irelande and wales without havinge takinge~~
~~or fetchinge of cockettes or makinge entries at Bristoll.~~
- 23⁷⁴ Item doe yowe knowe or iudge whether that / iii x x x iiii x x x iiii x
be not very mouche money saved in all the countrey and townes above Gloucester by havinge & obtieninge
their cockettes at Gloucester / for the which they did before the said vj yeeres traveill withe
greate chardge and traveill to Bristoll / And declare *your* iudgment and reasons thereof. /
- 24 Item wheather any searcher his deputie or *seruannt* have dwelte or remayned or doth dwell or remayne
betwene Bristoll and kingroade in any villadge howses or places for the discrying tryall and
understandinge of souche shippes and barckes as doe or have commen and passed that way into the
portes of Bristoll hungroade or kingroade or any of them / And declare the names of souche
persons and the place or places of their habitacion / ~

⁷³ Illegible deleted phrase.

⁷⁴ The original 23rd and 24th interrogatories are both crossed through. The report of the first commission found in the city of Gloucester's records notes that there were originally twenty-six interrogatories before amendments were made to Gloucester's set of interrogatories during the commission's execution. These two deleted interrogatories are probably the two interrogatories that were omitted as part of this amendment process. See Appendix 5.

Item to declare youre remembrannce of all other thinges concerninge the matters mencioned in all the former *Interrogatories* / and all Circumstannces touchinge the same or any parte thereof.

10r.

deposicions of wittnesses sworne and examyned taken at Berckley⁷⁵ in the Countie of Glouc the xvijth & xviiijth dayes of January in the xxvth yeere of the Raigne of our soueraigne Ladie Elizabeth⁷⁶ by the grace of god of Englande Franncce & Irelande Defendor of the faieth he Before Thomasan Thockmarton Richard Pale and Thomas Hannan esquiere by vertue of the Queenes *majestie*'s most honorable commission owte of her graces highe Cowrte of Exchequer unto *Sir william* wynter knighte and then addressed for the examynacion of wittnesses touching matter in controuersye in the same Cowrte dependinge betwene the maior and communaltie of the Cittie of Bristoll Compt and the maior and Burgesses of the Cittie of Gloucdeserter⁷⁷

- 1 William Grasinge of mynsterworth in the Countie of Glouc marryner of thadge of threscore yeeres or thereaboutes sworne and examyned to the firste interrogatorie deposethe and saieth that he hath benne an owner and a master of severall boates or barckes uppon the ryver of severne, but were never searcher, deputie searcher nor *seruannte* to any searcher and hath benne a sailer veary neere those fortie yeeres and hath used the trade of carriage of wares and *merchandizes*

⁷⁵ 'Berckley': Berkeley, a town on the east bank of the River Severn, approximately 20 miles from Bristol and 16 miles from Gloucester as the crow flies. It would seem that Berkeley was identified as a suitable venue for the sitting of the commission because it was almost equidistant from Bristol and Gloucester and thus the 'moste conveyente and fitteste place'. The Bristol Corporation were also keen for the commission to proceed at a location with a 'viewe of the Ryver' – and thus rejected Gloucester's attempts to move the commission to Wotton-under-Edge, a village five miles from Berkeley and five miles further away from the River Severn. See Appendix 4, fol. 106r.

⁷⁶ 'xvijth & xviiijth dayes of January in the xxvth yeere of the Raigne of our soueraigne' – the 17th and 18th January, 1583.

⁷⁷ 'Gloucdeserter': Gloucester.

allwayes unto Bristoll Cornewall Devonshire and Ireland and into
other partes beyonnde the seaes /

- 2 To the seconde *Interrogatory* the deponent saieth that the Cittie & porte
of Gloucester, and the creekes there is frequented and haunted with ~~
marchanntes wares and marchanndizes booth to serue inwarde and
outwarde, and thincketh the same meete to be contynued for the
same purposes And that the same creeke is not decayed, but still
frequented all the same have benne heretofore and that in his
oppinyon it is moste convenient the same shoulde be soe contynued ~
and aduannced, the reason is for that all the townes and countrey
about, and above Gloucester are mouche eased because they have their
cockettes at Gloucester, a place mouche neere unto them and their travell
heretofore, unto Bristoll for the same were veary chardgable & paynefull
unto them. /
- 3 To the thirde he saieth that he knoweth noe howse of custome
or any searcher dwellinge uppon the river of severne / or Aven goeing
under the bridgeof Bristoll betweene the cittie of Bristoll and the
Roade called Hungroade / But saieth that the towne of Sheerhamton
is distant from Hungroade aboute a quarter of a mile and that
the countie of Glouc extendeth to the towne wales⁷⁸ of Bristoll
but wheather kingroade and Hungroade be within the Countie
of Glouc or not he knoweth not.
- 4 To the fowerth he saieth that he knoweth all the portes creekes &
places in the said *interrogatory* mencioned savinge Shrewisburie and the same
hath well knowen those fortie yeeres And saieth that gatcombe
is distannt from kingeroade booth by water and lande twenty miles
or thereabouts and from Gatcombe to newnham by water fyve

⁷⁸ ‘wales’: in this context, walls.

miles, and fower miles by lande / And from newnham to Gloucester by land
 seuen miles and tenne miles by water ~~and from Gloucester to Tewxburie~~
~~by lande seven miles and tenne miles by water~~ And that kingroade
 is distant as he thincketh by lande from Shrewisburie Fower skore and tenne
 miles and by water one hundred miles And saieth that there are vij
 or vij dwellinge howses standinge in Gatcombe / And in Blackney⁷⁹ a mile.

Thomas Throkmarion

Rychard pate ~

Thomas Hanam

10v.

from Gatcombe, and in Etlowe a quarter of a mile from Gatcombe
 the like number of howses, And iudgeth that the key of Gloucester and the
 creekes of Gatcombe and newenham have benne alwaies apte places of
 ladinge and dischardginge of wares marchanndizes and commodities and soe hath
 ben allwayes used duringe the tyme of his remembrannce / And saieth
 that he hath knowne diuers⁸⁰ barckes builte and made betwene
 Gloucester bridge and Gatcombe, whereof he knowe one of them to be
 made at Gloucester by master Robert Poole called the mary fortune of
 fower skore tonnes or thereaboutes, and one other made at Frommilade⁸¹
 by william Bullock of the like burden / and all soe one other made at
 mynsternorth by one John Hawkins of Gloucester of xxxvij tonnes or
 thereaboutes. /

- 5 Item the fiveth that there are not more or greater number of ~
 ladinge and unldadinge places used uppon the ryver of severne since
 the queenes majestie's grannt of the custome howse in Gloucester then
 before and that the creekes of Gloucester newenham & Gatcombe
 and Berckley are used nowe, as they have ben tyme owte of mynde

⁷⁹ 'Blackney': Blakeney, the nearest settlement to Gatcombe. It lay approximately one mile northwest of Gatcombe.

⁸⁰ 'diuers': diverse.

⁸¹ 'Frommilade': Framilode.

and noe otherwise / and that often tymes souch shippes or barckes as come from Bristoll doe lade and unlade at Hungroade which is fower miles from Bristoll, and that there is good harboroughe⁸² in diuers places in the forreste side for shippes to be reste & freede in /

- 6 Item to the vjth he saieth that the river of severne is in depth of water at Gatcombe, uppon a full sea aboute iij fatham and that shippes or barckes of fower skore tonnes may fleete reste and lye in Gatcombe at full sea or springe tyme / and that the same may come from kingroade to gatcombe uppon the springe or tyde in iij howres and all soe that barckes boates and trowes of xvj tonnes may come and passe from Gatcombe to Gloucester in one tyde which is about iij howres And that barckes of LX tonnes may passe from Gatcombe to Bristol and from Bristoll to Gatcombe.
- 7 To the seventh he saieth that the creekes of Gatcombe & newnham are sufficient places to discearne all the shippes and barckes passing the river of severne /
- 8 To the viijth he saieth that there weere aboute xx^{tie} boates & xl^{tie} trowes belonginge to thinhabitanntes of the places mencioned in the same *interrogatory* / before the said xvijth yeere of the Quenes *majestie*'s Raigne and that there nowe are not any more barckes, or trowes belonginge to the said River of severne then were before the said xvijth yeere of her said *majestie*'s Raigne to his knowledge and remembrannce /
- 9 To the ixth he saieth that he knoweth not of any boates *that* came from the saide Cittie of Bristoll to the portes and places named in the said viijth *interrogatory* / But saieth that there hathe benne made within the vj yeeres fower barckes, and loste within the same

⁸² 'harborough': harbour.

time vj barckes / And saith that the marchanntes of Bristoll
have as greate and free vent for all kindes of marchanndizes to the
portes and places aboue and beneth Gloucester bridge as they had
before the same grannte of the custome howse made to Gloucester for any thing
he knoweth to the contrarye /

- 10 To the tenth eleventh twelfth and xiiijth he cannot depose.
- 14 To the xiiijth he saieth that he knoweth that all the townes
about Gloucester and Tewxbury and the countries theraboutes can furnishe and *seruice*
the countries of Cornewall wales and Irelande *with* corne and
grayne better cheepe then the cittie of Bristoll and countries
thereaboutes can serue and furnishe the same /

Thomas Throkmarton

By pate *richard*

Thomas hanam

11r.

- 15 To the xvth he saieth that the Quenes *majestie* may be provided
for mawlte and wheate from Gloucester and the creekes therunto
belonginge, for her *majestie's* services into Ireland as good cheepe or
better then it is, was or might be from Bristoll if there weere
noe custome howse in Gloucester /
- 16 To the xvj and xvij *interrogatory* he cannot depose /
- 18 To the xviiijth he saieth that barckes and boates belonginge unto
the said river of seuerne have used and yet doe use to travelle into
Irelande and other places beyonnde the seaes and that there
hath benne there in Retorned home back agayne herringe and
salte and diuers other wares *merchanndizes* and comodities /

- 19 To the xixth he saieth that he thincketh this laste yeere
there hath benne transported from the countie and portes of
Gloucester into *Cornewall* *devonshire* and *Irelande* and diuers other
places at the last xxx^{tie} boates loaded with aples and sider. /
- 20 To the twentieth he saieth that one hundred tonnes of small
shippinge doth breede and meyntine as many *seruicable* *marriners*
as any great shipp of like burden / and that allwaies there is a
searcher at newenham and Gatcombe attendinge her *majestie's*
comodities there /
- 21 To the xxjth he saieth There is a custome howse errected and
builte in *Gloucester* at the key harde by severne side and there
standeth comodiouslye for the Queenes officers to discrie or
stay any boates passinge by the same River / and saieth that
there are sufficient stoar howses, and veary fitt places to builde store howses on.
- 22 To the xxijth he cannot depose /
- 23 To the xxiiijth he saieth that he well knoweth that mouche
money hath ben saued in the countrey and townes nere aboutes
Gloucester / by reason that the said custome howse is nearer unto them
in savinge of their cockettes by a daies iorney.⁸³
- 24 To the xxiiijth and laste *interrogatory* he cannot depose /
- 1 Arthure Barrett of mynsterworth aforesaide in the said
Countie of Glouc yoman of thade⁸⁴ of lvij yeeres or therabotes
sworren and examyned to the firste *interrogatory* he saieth that he hath
frayted barckes with fruite and corne into *Cornewall* *Ireland* and *wales*

⁸³ 'iorney': journey.

⁸⁴ 'yoman of thade': yeoman of the age.

and other places, and used that trade for the space of xij or xiiij yeeres /
and loste of the same trade xv or xvj yeeres paste /

- 2 To the seconde *interrogatory* he saieth that he hath knowen the Cittie &
portes of Gloucester and the creekes there frequented and haunted
with traffique of *merchanntes* and *merchandizes* booth inwarde and ~
owtwarde, and thincketh it a meete place to be contynued for the
same purpose for he saieth he hath knowen orrynges wyne, salte
Iron oyles and reasons⁸⁵ to have benne broughte to Gloucester and sould
there /
- 3 To the thirde he saieth that he knoweth noe more townes &
portes and villages betwene Bristoll hungroade & kingroade
but only the towne of Shire Hampton / which towne is ~
distant from Hungroade aboute a quarter of a mile and from
kingroade about ij miles.

Thomas Throkmarton Rychard Pate ~ Thomas hanam

11v.

- 4 To the fowerth he saieth that he knoweth all the townes
and portes as *thinterrogatory* mencioned savinge Shrewisburie and the same
hath well knowen for those xl^{tie} yeeres paste, and saieth that
Gatcombe is distant from kingroade by water about xx^{tie} miles &
by lande as mouche / or thereabouts, / and from Gatcombe unto
newnham bothe by lande and water aboute iiij^{er} or v miles
and from newenham to gloucester by water aboute x or xj miles
and by lande aboute viij^t miles / And from kingroade to Shrewisbury
by water aboute C miles / and by lande iiijcx and viij miles or

⁸⁵ 'reasons': in this context, raisins.

thereaboutes / And thincketh that all the Creekes and portes in
 thinterrogatory mencioned are veary fitt and meete places to lade unlade
 and dischardge wares and and merchanndizes threin⁸⁶ and soe hathe
 ben used duringe all the tyme of his remembrannce and many
 yeeres before, but howe many he knoweth not And thincketh that the
 key of Gloucester is nowe in better state than at any tyme the
 same was or hath benne heretofore for and duringe all
 the tyme of his remembrannce / And allsoe saieth that in
 Poole builte and made a shipp in Gloucester of aboute iiijxx
 tonnes, and master Clutterbuck builte and made a barck of in
 Gloucester of aboute xxx tonnes and allsoe John Hawkins of
 Gloucester built one other barck of the like burden & william -
 Bullock of Ellmore builte one shippe at Framilade of aboute
 iiijxx tonnes. And twoe men of Bristoll whose names he
 well rememberth not builte twoe shippes nere unto Bewdley
 aboue Gloucester of iij xx and tenne tonnes at the leaste /

- 5 To the vth he saieth that there are noe more places of
 ladinge and dischardginge in the ryver of severne since the quenes
majestie's grannt made to Gloucester then were before that grannt /
 made / And saieth that the creekes of Barkley & newnham
 weere places of ladinge and Dischardginge before the same grannt
 made of the custome howse in Gloucester / as he thincketh / And that
 shippes and barckes of Bristoll and those that come to Bristoll
 with wares or merchanndizes Doe lade and unlade at Hungroade
 moste comonly and that there are diuers good harboroughes for
 shippes to lye in the forreste side in tyme of necessitie ./
- 6 To the vjth he saieth that the water is in depthe at Gatcombe
 uppon every springe aboute xv or xvj foutes, and at some other

⁸⁶ 'threin': therein.

springes xx or xxiiijth footes as he thinckethh / And that shippes
of iiij xx tonnes may fleete, & reste in Gatcombe at full sea or
springe tyme, and that the same at one tyde in the beste of the
springe may come from kingroade to Gatcombe havinge the
healpe of the wynde / And that barckes or trowes of xx^{tie}
or xxiiij tonnes havinge the wynde and tyde with them may come
to Gloucester at one springe tyde /

Thomas Throkmarton

Rychard pate ~

Thomas Hanam

12r.

- 7 To the vijth he saieth that the Creekes of Gatcombe and
newnham are sufficient and convenient places to discouer all shippes
and barckes passinge the said river of severne / And thincketh
that there are a sufficient number of dwellinge howses & people
there, or veary nere unto the same place for fitt *seruice* to her *majestie*
and that the said River of Seuerne, is aboute a quarter of a mile in breadth at
newnham, and at Gatcombe aboute iiij quarters of a mile /
- 8 To the viij^t he saieth he knoweth not of any greater number
of boates since the said grannt of the custome howse in Gloucester
then were before within the river of severne / and saieth that
there hath benne as greate of greater traffique uppon the said
river of severne betwene kingrode & Shrewisburie since the
saime grannt, as in any time before the saide grannt made
And that the merchannts of Bristoll have had as free and
greate vent for all kindes of wares & merchandizes to all townes
and places aboute Gloucester bridge as they had before the said grannt made of
the custome howse in Gloucester for any thinge he knoweth or
ever saide to the contrary. /

- 9 To the ixth he cannot depose /
- 10 To the tenth he saieth that the cittie of Bristoll hath ben
aswell *serued* and provided *with* wares & comodities from Gloucester
Twexburie and other places within the said vj yeeres laste
paste as before in elder time / as he thincketh /
- 11 To the xj xij xiiij & xiiijth Interrogatories he cannot depose
- 15 To the xvth he saieth that the Queenes *majestie*'s provision of
wheate and wares may be provided and furnished from the
Cittie and Countie of Glouces as good cheepe and better then
from Bristoll if there weere noe custome howse in Gloucester / the
cause is for that comonly the said Cittie of Bristoll have
their provision, and are *partlie serued* of their provision from
Gloucester and the countieis nere adioyninge,⁸⁷ as this deponent verely⁸⁸
thincketh /
- 16 To the xvjth he cannot depose. /
- 17 To the xvijth he iudgeth that the small boates barckes or
trowe uppon seuerne haue brede and doth brede & increase /
able and sufficient marriners apte and fitt for the sea &
sundry *seruices* of her *majestie* / and fitt for greate shippes / And
that her *majesty* in tyme of *seruice* have benne provided of ~
sonndry good marryners from the same townes and places nowe
adioyninge to the said River of seuerne *which* haue ben
bred and trayned upp in those small boates or barckes &

⁸⁷ The deponent suggests that using Bristol as a central point from which to provision Ireland with wheat added an additional stage to the distribution process because Bristol obtained much of its grain supplies from Gloucester and its hinterland anyway.

⁸⁸ 'verely': verily, ie. truthfully.

may be employed for her *majestie's service* into Ireland

Thomas Throkmarton *Rychard pate ~* Thomas Throckmorton

12v.

- 18 To the xvijth he saieth that barckes and boates
 uppon severne doe use, and have used to traveill into
 Ireland and some times into Franncce & Rochell. /
- 19 To the xixth he saieth that comonly every yeer xij
 or xvij barckes or boates *within* the saide river of severne
 doe transport fruit and sider from the Countie of
 Glouc into Cornwall Devonshire Ireland wales and
 Bristoll / And that great quantities of herringe are
 yeerely returned from all those costes savinge Bristoll to
 searue the same Counties in thinterrogatory mencioned. /
- 20 To the xxth he saieth that one hundred tonnes of
 smalle shippinge doth and will meinteyne more marryners
 than a greater shipp of the like burden /
- 21 To the xxjth he affirmeth the Fact of all the
 Interrogatory ./
- 22,23, To the xxij xxij & xxiiijth he cannot depose /
- 24

Rychard pate ~ Thomas Hanam
 Thomas Throkmarton

13r.

Henrie Browne of the Cittey of Gloucester sayler of thage of lx^{or} yeres or ~
 therabouts sworn and examined to the first Interrogatory saith that he ~
 hath been owner of a boate of abowte xv^{en} tonne called the George⁸⁹ aboute
 fyve yeres past and is now owner of a parte of a boate / and hath been ~
 a purser⁹⁰ in a shippe called the Marie fortune belonging to Roberte Poole of the
 Cittie of Gloucester aboute xxxviiij^{tie} yeres agoe / and saith that during the tyme
 that he hath used to travell upon the said River (which to his remembrance
 is aboute xliij yeres) he used to carrie such comodities as the Countie of
 Glouc did yelde, to Cornewall / Devonshire / Bristoll / and wales / bringing backe
 with him hearring and other fishe for the same / and likewise had accesse into
 Ireland for herring fishing / sometime for himself and sometime as an hired
servante and *served* the said Robert Poole as an apprentice. /

- 2 To the seconde he saith that the Cittie and porte of Gloucester and the Creekes
 there hath been frequented with traffique of merchandizes, and that he himself
 during the time of his *service* under the said Roberte Poole transported ~
 clothe, leade and other lafull merchandizes to Galisia Andolazia Portuigall and
 Lushborne,⁹¹ at which place he hath been at the leaste Tenne tymes for his said ~
master and for merchantes of Bristoll, which said shippe was laden one time at ~
 Gatcombe, sometime at Hungerode and sometime at Chepstowe / and iudgeth the
 same porte of Gloucester meete to be continued for the trade of merchanndizes and do
 thinke it verie necessarie to be mainteyned and advannced for thencrease of more
 marriners therby to be more reddie for the princes *services* /
- 3 To the third Interrogatory he saith that there are no villages betwene Bristoll
 Hungerode upon the Ryver side, but here and there a howse or two at the
 most together and saith that Sherehampton is aboute halfe a myle distante

⁸⁹ Duncan Taylor identifies a number of occasions in 1592 when this ship is recorded to have departed for Bristol from Gloucester carrying malt and wheat but the arrival of the ship is then not recorded in Bristol. Taylor suggests that on these occasions, these commodities may have been illegally shipped overseas under the colour of a coastal cocket. Taylor, 'Maritime Trade', 108-115.

⁹⁰ 'purser' - an officer on board a ship responsible for provisions and for keeping accounts, or for various other administrative matters.

⁹¹ 'Lushborne': Lisbon.

from Hungerode, and thinketh that there be in Sherehampton aboute xx^{tie} houses /

- 4 To the fourthe he saith that he will knowethe all the portes Townes and ~ places menciond in the said Interrogatory, savinge Shrewsburie, and hath knowen the most parte of them since the time he hath used the trade of the said river of Severne / and further saithe that Gloucester is x miles distant from ~ Gatcombe by lande / and aboute xiiij miles by water / and betwene Gatcombe and kingeroode is aboute xx miles by water / and betwene Gatcombe and hungerode is aboute xxij^{tie} miles by water / and betwene hungerode and bristoll aboute iiij^{or} miles by water / and betwene newneham and Gloucester is aboute vij miles by lande / and doth iudge that Gloucester / Barkleie / Gatcombe / and newneham are meete and apte ~ places for lading and unlading of wares and merchandizes / And saith that ~ the key of Gloucester is well builte and prepared and that he knewe it in so good state as it is nowe and saith that he doth verie well remember his said master Robert poole builte a shippe of lxxx^{or} tonne at Gloucester called the marie fortune / And also that one master Clutterbuck of Gloucester builte a barke of aboute xxx^{tie} tonne aboute xl^{tie} yeres past within two miles of Gloucester / and that one John Haukins and John Hoskins aboute the same tyme with iiij^{er} miles of Gloucester builte one other barke able to travle to Bysky and franncce in the companie of which barke he this deponent did travell to Burdeux and that one Bullocke of Ellmore builte a barke of aboute lxxx^{tie} tonne called the mathew at Fromelade. /
- 5 To the fyfte he saith that there are no more places of lading and unladinge now used upon the Ryver of Severne, then there were before the grannte of the Custome house to Gloucester / and saith that Barkleie Gatcombe newneham during all his remembrannce were used for places of ladinge and unlading / And saith that the shippes of Bristoll do most comonlie ~ lade and unlade at Hungerode. /
- 6 To the syxte he saith that the river of Severne at Gatcombe doth flowe three faddome at full sea and springe time and in his iudgement that there maie lie

and fleete at Gatcombe at full sea a shippe betwene lx & lxxx tonne / and
saith that a shippe of his said masters called the Iulian of aboute lx tonne /
did reste and lie at Gatcombe and Brimspill⁹² when she came home from the sea. /
and

Thomas Throkmarton / Rychard pate ~ Thomas Hanam

13v.

and further saith that a shippe of lx tonne laden maie come at one tyme
from kingrode to Gatcombe and further saith that a barke of xvj^{en} or xx^{tie} tonne
within a tyde or two maie passe from Gatcombe to Gloucester, of winde and
wether serve / and that he himself hath comen *with* a troe from kingroade
to Gloucester at one tide /

- 7 To the seventhe he saieth that the Creekes of newneham and Gatcombe by ~
reason of their standing upon the River of Severne are apte and meete
and sufficiente places for to descrie the boates barkes and trowes that passe by
by that Ryver / and hath sufficient people dwelling there to that ende / .
and iudgeth that the River of Severne at Gatcombe is aboute iij^e quartere of
a myle in breddith over at full sea / and not a quarter of a mile in breddith
at newneham at full sea.
- 8 To the eighte he saithe that he thinkethe that there be as manie or more
barkes and trowes in the River of Severne then have been of elder time / the
certen number wherof he knoweth not /
- 9 To the nynthe Interrogatory he saith that he dothe not certenlie knowe ~
what nombere of barkes have been builte upon seaverne / And further saith
that in his iudgement the merchantes of Bristoll have or maie have (if they

⁹² Brim's Pill: a tidal inlet etched into the Severn's west bank between Awre and Poulton.

will) as free and greate vente for all kinde of merchandizes to the townes
and places mencionned in that Interrogatory, as theie had or used to have before
the grannte of the Custome house to Gloucester /

- 10 To the tenthe he saithe that in his iudgement the Cittie of Bristoll hath been
as plentifulle served and *provided* with such comodities as the Countie of glouc
woulde yelde within those vj yeres as ub elder tymes /
- 11 To the eleventh he saith that thinhabitantes of Tewxburie and Gloucester be ~
reddie at all tymes to serve the Cittie of Bristoll, with malt and other ~
graine, having a convenient gaine for their venter and travell.
- 14 To the xiiijth he saith that by reson of the greate plentie of Corne in ~
Gloucester and therabouts, he thinketh that the said Countie of Glouc and the
Contrey therabouts maie better cheape furnishe and provide for Cornwall
Devonshire Ireland and wales, then the same may be donne at Bristoll /
- 15 To the xvth he saith that the Cittie and Countie of Glouc and the places
therabowtes can make provision for her *majestie's service* of malte and Corne ~
into Irelande better cheape then the Cittie of Bristoll can do / in his iudgement /
- 17 To the sevententhe he saith that the small boates and barks upon seaverne
have bredde and do breede verie able and sufficient marinere for their labour
to *serve* for sundrie service by sea and fitt for greate shippes / and that
such marinere bredd in the said boates upon the river of seaverne in tymes
of service by sea haue served in the raigne of king Henry theighte and
ever synce as occasion did serve / and that the said boates and barks have
and do serve and at sundrie times have been employed for carriage of
her *majestie's* provision into Irelande / and that he this deponent hath *served* ~
for the carriage of her highnes said provision into Irelande in his owne
shippinge /

18 To the xviiith he saith that he doth verie well remember that there have and do diverse boates and barkes travell into Ireland for hearring fishing and sometimes xij, xvj, xx, or more boates and barkes have travelled thither in one yere / and to other places beyonde the seas in trade of merchandizes as he this deponent hath allreddy named in his deposicion to the second Interrogatory /

19 To the xixth he saith that comonlie everie yere there have been laden out of the Countie of Glouc and Contreie therabouts xx, xxx. or xl, ~ boates lading (according to the plentifulnes of the yere) with fruite and sider into Cornewall wales and other places / and that there is comonly retorned in the said boates greate quantities of fishe in the contreys there /

Thomas Throkmarton

Rychard pate ~

Thomas Hanam

14r.

20 To the xxth he saith that there are more maryners bredd in small shipping ~ of one hundred tonnes then in a grete shipp of like burden having therin but ordinary companie / and for reson therof he doth saie that a shipp of C tonne wilbe well ledd and guided with xx marrinere / and v barkes of xx. tonne apece⁹³ doth require the necessarie service of v or vj men apece / and likewise x boates of x tonne apece do ~ require everie of them three mariners apece at the least *which* is in a C tonne / xxx men / abes

21 To the xxith he saith that there is a custome house allreddy builte in Gloucester harde adioyning both to the key and river of Severne, the standing wherof is apte and commodious for the service and purposes mencionned in that Interrogatory /

23 To the xxiiijth he saith that in his iudgement there must needes be greate chardges saved for the Contreies aboute Gloucester in having their Cockettes at Gloucester, then if

⁹³ apece: apiece, ie. each.

they shold be driven to fetch the same at Bristoll / by reson of the distance of ye place /

- 24 To the xxiiijth he saith that he never knewe during all his time that ever anie sercher his deputie of servante did or now doth dwell or remaine betwene Bristoll and Hungerode in anie place nere to the River side there / And more to anie of the said Interrogatoryes this deponent cannot depose.
- 1 William Tyler *alias* Horsley of the Cittie of Gloucester sayler of thage of lxiiij^{or} yeres or therabouts sworne and examined to the first Interrogatorie saith that he hath been owner of a boate of x tonne / of a barke of almost xx tonne / and of another barke betwene xxij and xxvj tonne / and owner of the half *parte* of one other boate called the Jesus of aboute xvj or xvij tonnes. / And hath used to ~ trade by water since the Raigne of Queene Mary / and hath used to carrie fruite and malte to the places *mencionned* in the Interrogatory /
- 2 To the seconde he saith that the porte in Gloucester hath been used with the ~ traffique of *merchandizes* and that he himself hath within this xvj yere brought thither wine trayne oyle⁹⁴ and hearring from the coaste of Irelande spaine franncce and wales and thinketh it verie convenient that the same sholde be so used & frequented
- 3 To the third he saieth that there are aboute ix. or x. howses at diverce places betwene Bristoll and hungerode / But no villadge other then sherehampton which standeth distant aboute halfe a mile from hungerode /
- 4 To the fourth he saith that he knoweth all the Creekes and *portes* *mencionned* in that Interrogatory, and the most of them hath knowen ever since the tyme he used the water / and saith that in his iudgement there is aboute C myles by water betwene kingeroade and Shrewisburie / and aboute lxxxviiij^t myles by lande / And towching the distance betwene the places *mencionned* in this Interrogatorie he agreeth with Henry ~

⁹⁴ ‘trayne oil’: cod liver oil.

Browne the former deponent / and further saith that the Creek^{es} of Barkley Gatcombe and newneham are meete places for lading and unlading of such wares as doe or can come thither and towching the building of the key of Gloucester he agreeth with the said former deponent Henry Browne / And further saith that Henry Horne of Gloucester builded and made a Barke there abowte xx tonnes / And Richard Swanley builde one other of aboute xvj or xvij tonnes / And also remembreth of the making and building of Roberte Pooles shippe & of diverce other barkes ~ and boates /

- 5 To the fyfte he agreeth with the said Henry Browne / and further saith That ye place aboute Chepstowe called poole merricke,⁹⁵ and the entrannce into the Ryver of wye, and Lydney pill⁹⁶ are wry meete and convenient places to save a shipp in the tyme of necessitie.
- 6 To the syxte he saith that the River of Severne at Gatcombe at some springe tymes doth flowe above xx foots of water and the most parte of the springe do flowe at the best of the spring xvij foot of water / and it continueth not so highe more then two daies after the heigth of the spring / And that a shipp of lx tonnes in his opinion may verie well rest and lye allwaies at Gatcombe and that such a shipp may within iij or iiij houres come from kingrode to gatcombe assome as the like may come from kingroade to Bristoll / And that a barke of xxx or xl tonnes according as the same shall drane water may come and past from Gatcombe to Gloucester in ye tyde or lesse / if wind & wether serve / .

Thomas Throkmarton By pate *richard*

Thomas Hanam

14v.

- 7 To the vijth he saith that the Creek^{es} of newneham / and Gatcombe are as convenient places for the descrying of anie boate or barke passing by

⁹⁵ 'poole merricke' – refers to a creek on the west bank of the River Severn that lay within a mile of the mouth of the River Wye and stretched as far inland as Mathern.

⁹⁶ 'Lydney pill' – a creek located on the west bank of the River Severn, approximately eight miles upstream of the mouth of the River Wye.

the said Ryver as the bankes or keyes of Gloucester or Bristoll are / and saith that newneham is a mayor and markett towne having in it aboute xl^{tie} houses / and Gatcombe hath in it v or vj houses / and that newneham is distant from Gatcombe iij miles / and saith that Etloe is distant from Gatcombe half a myle having in it aboute x. or xij. howses at the least and the village of Blakney is aboute a mile from Gatcombe having ~ therin aboute xx. or xxx. howsholdes. /

- 8 To the viij^t he saith in every pointe and article as the former deponent Henry Browne hath before deposed /

- 9 To the ixth he saith that in his iudgement there hath not been builte any greter number of boates or barkes upon Severne within vj yeres past, then there were in vj yeres before / And to the rest of the said Interrogatories he agreeth with Henry Browne / and that there is no alteracion therof unlesse it be by the Queenes service / .

- 11 To the eleventhe he saithe that it is comonlie reported that the Cittie of Bristoll have been aswell served and provided with corne & graine from the County of glouc within vj yeres past, as it hath been before /

- 12 To the xijth he saith that one Master white of gloucester and ij^o or iij^{ie} more haue a certen trade for butter and cheese out of wales and then the said trade hath been no more used nor so much within those vj. yeres then it hath been before /

- 14 To the xiiijth he saith that such grete quantities of corne and graine have passed from the Countrie of Glouc and places therunto adioyning to Cornewall devonshire and wales / that the same doth passe the reson & iudgement of this deponent by the gretnes therof / And further saith that it cannot stand with reson that the Cittie of Bristoll can provide Corne and graine so plentifull or as good cheepe as the Countie of ~

Glouc can /.

- 15 To the xvth he agreeth in all thinges with the former deponent ~
Henry Browne /
- 16 To the xvjth he saith that in his iudgement fewe or none of the ~
Cittizens of Gloucester have made anie gaine of benefitt by husbandrie for
they are all Indenture holders⁹⁷ therof / and in his iudgment there is *none*
that hath above lx acres of grownde, and for feedinge he knoweth of none /
and doth further affirme that the trade of Cappers and clothiers is
utterlie now so much decayed within the said Cittie, that wheras before
*Sir Thomas Bell*⁹⁸ and one *master Falkoner*⁹⁹ kepte grete numbers of people
at worke on spynning and knitting of cappes, that nowe there are very
fewe set to worke in that trade and that there is the like decay of
clothing within the same Citty /
- 17 To the xvijth he saith as the former deponent Henry Browne hath before
deposed / & saith that he himself hath been pressed and employed
to serve in Ireland with his boates in the tyme of the Raigne of
Quene Mary. /
- 18 To the xvijth he saith that he himself with his owne boate hath
travelled to Burdens for wyne and have fraughted his barke with
clothes & norten cottons & so hath divers men within his remembrance /

⁹⁷ 'Indenture holders' – an indenture was the contract by which an apprentice was bound to their master. The deponent is therefore disagreeing with the Bristol Corporation's claims that the vast majority of Gloucester men were employed as arable and pastoral farmers – see references to 'grasinge and husbandrye' in Jones (ed.), 'Bristol's petition, 1582', fol. 68r.

⁹⁸ 'Sir Thomas Bell' – Bell held office as the mayor of Gloucester on three occasions and was returned as a Gloucester M.P on up to five occasions. He is described as a 'prosperous clothier' who set up a manufactory that specialised in cap production. This industry blossomed in the earlier sixteenth century and Bell's manufactory became one of Gloucester's largest employers of the period: A.D.K. Hawkyard, 'Bell, Thomas (1485/6-1566), of Gloucester' in S. T. Bindoff (ed.), *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1509-1558* (London, 1982), i. 413-4.

⁹⁹ John Falkoner was also a significant Gloucester alderman who served as the mayor of Gloucester on a number of occasions and was a capper by trade.

19 To the xixth he agreeth with the former deponent Henry Browne and saith further that he thincketh there be at the leaste ij CC boats ladinge of fruite and sider *which* do passe to Bristoll besides in a yere /

20 21 To the xxth xxith xxijth and xxiiith he agreeth in every pointe with the
23 24 former deponent Henry Browne /
And more he cannot depose. /

15r.

1 John Lewes of Longney¹⁰⁰ in the County of Glouc sayler of thage of xl^{tie} yeres or therabouts sworne and examined to the first Interrogatorie saith that within those xx^{tie} yeres he hath been owner of nyne barkes and that he hath served in the same barkes himself into Ireland Cornewall wales and other places since the said tyme / And his owne shipping hath gone into Spaine with his owne goodes where he lost a shipp worth CC^{li} / And since michellmas last hath lost a barke of xxviij^{tie} tonne in Irelande.

2 To the second Interrogatory he saith that he hath knowen barkes to passe with marchandise from Gatcombe newneham and Gloucester to Ireland and other places beyonde the seae / And that Thomas Smith of Purton had a boate of fifty tonne / upon the said River / And that iij^e or iiij^{or} men of Gloucester had a barke of aboute L^{tie} tonne within these ij^o yeres wherin they travelled into the *par tes* beyonde the seae /

3 To the third Interrogatory he saith as the former deponent Henry Browne hath said /

¹⁰⁰ 'Longney' – a village on the east bank of the River Severn approximately six miles south-west of Gloucester.

- 4 To the fourthe he saith that he doth verie well knowe all the *Creekes* and places betwene kingerde and Gloucester mencionned in the said Interrogatory and towching the distance of the said place he agreeth with the said Henry ~ Browne / and saith in resperte that the places mencionned in the said Interrogatory are reasonable faire to have accesse unto / he doth therfore iudge them places ~ meete for lading and unlading /
- 5 To the fyfte Interrogatory he agreeth with the said Henry Browne /
- 6 To the syxte he saith that at the highest tyde of the lowest springe in all the yere the river of seaverne at Gatcombe is in depth xvij foote of water and saith that a shipp betwene l and lx tonne may come from kingrode to Gatcombe at one tyde having a convenient wynde / and saith that he himself hath had ij^o barks of xxvij^{tie} tonne apece, which have sondrie tymes come from Gatcombe to Gloucester within two tydes. /
- 7 To the seventh he saith that he knoweth there are in Gatcombe vij dwelling howses with people in them / and that Etloe is adioyning to Gatcombe aboute half a *quarter* of a myle from Gatcombe having therin aboute xij or xiiij howses.
- 8 To the viij^t he saith that in his iudgement there hath not been anie ~ difference of the number of the boates barks and trowes upon Severne for the space of those xij yeres. /
- 9 To the ixth he saith that in his iudgement the merchantes of Bristoll have as free and grete vente for merchandizes to the County of Glouc and the places therabouts as sthey have had heretofore.
- 10 To the tenthe he saithe that the Cittie of Bristoll may be aswell s furnished and myght be aswell furnished with Corne and graine out of

the said County of Glouc and the places theraboutes (if they wolde define the same) as they have been hertofore.

- 11 To the eleventh he saith that in his iudgement there is not now, nor hath of late been lesse caringe of malt and corne to Bristoll from Tewxbury and Gloucester then hath been used in tymes past.

Thomas Throkmarton

By pate *richard*

Thomas Hanam

15v.

- 14 To the fourteenth he can saie no more then in his Iudgment the Cittie of Bristoll cannot provide and furnishe malte and Corne for Ireland so good cheape and so plentifully as the County of Glouc can.
- 15 To the xvth he saith as the former deponent Henry Browne hath said.
- 17 To the xvijth he saieth that the small boates and barks of the River of Severne can and doth breed up sufficient and able marryners fitt for greate shippes / and that he himself being bredd up in the small boates and barks upon Severne hath served the Quenes majesty in the golden Lion at Hamboroughe. /

Rychard pate ~

Thomas Hanam

Thomas Throkmarton

[On the last page of depositions, there is a Latin phrase called the ‘liberatur’. This ‘liberatur’ recorded the receipt of the document into the Exchequer. It notes that the documents were received on the 5th February 1583 and were delivered by Robert Smyth – a gentleman who was an active commissioner in the second commission that sat in April 1583. It is interesting to note that the commission documents were delivered to the Exchequer after the return date referred to in the writ – which was the 20th January 1583. It is not entirely clear if there were any consequences for this lateness.]

